

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Preliminary Amendment-A the claims in the application are claims 1-4, 7-9, and 11-23, of which claims 1-4, 9 and 17-19 are independent.

The specification, claims and abstract are amended to overcome minor informalities therein.

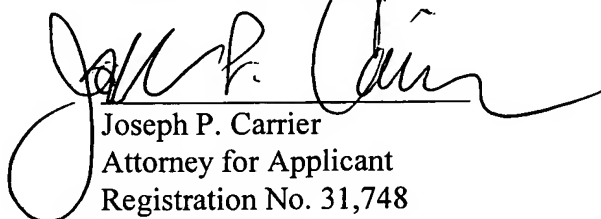
Applicant respectfully submits that all of the above amendments are fully supported by the original application. Applicant also respectfully submits that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter into the application.

Previously, the International Application PCT/JP2003/009737 was amended under Articles 19 and 34. English language translations of the amendments under Articles 19 and 34 are being filed concurrently herewith, including comments made in association with such amendments.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

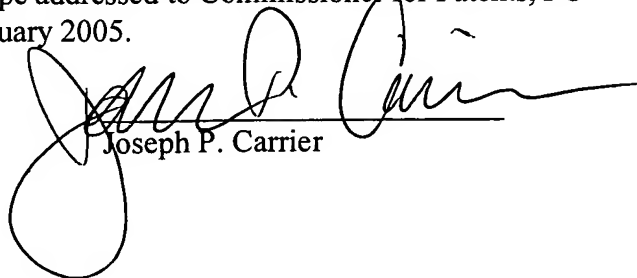
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as express Mail Certificate No. ED 150632728 US in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 01 February 2005.

  
Joseph P. Carrier